Impact of dis-integration of Soviet Union of Export of tea

*556. SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the dis-integration of the Soviet Union there has been a decline in India's tea export;

(b) if so, what is the extent of the decline; and

(c) what steps are being taken to explore fresh markets and increase export of tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The estimated export of tea from India during April to June, 1992 was 18.86 Million kgs valued at Rs. 107.72 crores as against 37.10 Million kgs valued at Rs. 191.69 crores during the corresponding period of the last year.

(c) Government have initiated a number of steps to explore fresh markets and increase export of tea which includes signing of trade protocols with Uzbekistan and Kazakistan in addition to the trade protocol signed with Russia. Government is also encouraging diversification of India's export to other countries including West Europe WANA region and North America sponsoring trade delegations abroad to find new markets in other regions, participating in international fairs and exhibitions, providing incentives in the form of excise duty refund on tea, etc.

Relaxation in import norms for consumer durables

*557. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have relaxed the import norms for consumer durables;

(b) if so, the detail thereof and also the reasons for such relaxations;

(c) whether Government have any strategy to reduce import contents of goods manufactured in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Import of consumer durables including accessories, components, parts and spares thereof is restricted. However, the manufacturers of consumer durables are permitted to import accessories, components, parts and spares of consumer durables subject to actual user condition.

(c) and (d) The Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 seeks, *inter-alia* to promote efficient and internationally competitive import substitution and self reliance under deregulated framework for foreign trade. The progressive indigenisation of components and parts of the goods manufactured in India has, therefore, been left to the market mechanism to determine.

Provisions of Sniffer dogs at airport

*558. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the Airports which have the availability of sniffer dogs